RUSSELL BEGAYE PRESIDENT IONATHAN NEZ VICE PRESIDENT

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PRESIDENT BEGAYE URGES A HEARING AND VOTE ON SUPREME COURT NOMINEE

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.—President Begaye called on the Senate to hold hearings and a vote on Merrick Garland, the presidential nominee to the Supreme Court to fill the vacancy left by Justice Antonin Scalia.

"I urge the Senate to expeditiously review President Obama's nominee to the high court, Merrick Garland. Any further delay in filling this vacancy could result in split decisions with serious implications for the nation and for Indian Country, such as with the Dollar General Corporation v. Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians case. I also urge the President and the Senate to ensure that any successful nominee be well versed in Indian Law. Our aboriginal ties to our land, the United States Constitution, and our treaties with the United States provide the Navajo Nation and the Navajo people with a vested interest in the makeup and philosophy of the U.S. Supreme Court, and compel our fair and equal treatment before the highest court in the land. We thus expect our President and our lawmakers to nominate and select Supreme Court justice candidates with a strong background in federal Indian law and Tribal law. With respect to Mr. Garland, I look forward to learning about Mr. Garland's knowledge about Tribal governments and our place in the three-sovereign regime established in the U.S. Constitution, and I urge the senate to hold hearings and an up and down vote as soon as possible. The delivery of justice in our nation, in Indian country, and in Navajo country, relies on the quick execution of the appointment and confirmation process provided for in the Constitution. We hope to see that duty delivered upon with all due speed," said President Begaye.

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